Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-40 (Cancelled)

41. (New) A medical device comprising:

a first portion comprising an upper region including a retention structure and a substantially straight, elongated lower region configured for positioning in a ureter; and

a second portion comprising a biocompatible polymer, the second portion extending from the lower region of the first portion and comprising a plurality of continuous and unitary loops.

42. (New) The medical device of claim 41 wherein the retention structure comprises a coil.

43. (New) The medical device of claim 41 wherein the loops have a circular cross section.

44. (New) The medical device of claim 41 wherein the substantially straight, elongated lower region comprises a hollow shaft.

45. (New) The medical device of claim 41 wherein the first portion defines a lumen and an aperture allowing communication between the lumen and an external environment.

46. (New) The medical device of claim 41 wherein the second portion comprises two loops.

47. (New) The medical device of claim 41 wherein the second portion comprises three loops.

48. (New) The medical device of claim 41 wherein the plurality of loops are fused.

49. (New) The medical device of claim 41 wherein the second portion continuously and integrally extends from the lower region of the first portion.

50. (New) A medical device, the device comprising:

an elongated member comprising

a first portion comprising an upper region, including a first terminal end, and a substantially straight lower region configured for positioning in the ureter; and

a second portion continuously and integrally extending from the lower region of the first portion, the second portion comprising a plurality of solid, elongated, flexible tail members.

51. (New) The medical device of claim 50 wherein the upper region of the first portion has an outer diameter and each of said tail members has an outer diameter, the outer diameter of each tail member being smaller than the outer diameter of the upper region of the first portion.

52. (New) The device of claim 50 wherein the tail members comprise at least one thread filament.

53. (New) The device of claim 52 wherein the tail members comprise a plurality of thread filaments.

54. (New) The device of claim 50 wherein the tail members comprise at least two looped filaments.

55. (New) The medical device of claim 50 wherein the tail members comprise at least one looped filament.

56. (New) The medical device of claim 55 wherein the tail members comprise no unlooped filaments, so that the tail members are free from loose ends.

57. (New) A method of manufacturing a medical device, the medical device comprising a thin flexible elongated tail member having an elongated external urine transport surface sized and configured to transport urine along the surface within the ureter, the method comprising:

providing a polymer pre form comprising a tubular shape;

forming an elongated tubular segment from the polymer pre form; and

providing at least one tail member at an end region of the tubular segment designed to be positioned toward a bladder.

58. (New) The method of claim 57 further comprising forcing the polymer pre form onto a mandrel to produce a desired shape of the elongated tubular segment.

59. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein the providing at least one tail member step comprises attaching the tail member to the end region using heat.

60. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein the providing at least one tail member step comprises attaching the tail member to the end region using an adhesive.

61. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein the providing at least one tail member step comprises attaching the tail member to the end region with a suture.

62. (New) A method for introducing a medical device into a patient, the method comprising:

(a) positioning a section of a medical device within a kidney, the medical device comprising

an elongated member comprising

a first portion comprising an upper region, including a first terminal end, and a substantially straight lower region configured for positioning in the ureter; and

a second portion continuously and integrally extending from the lower region of the first portion, the second portion comprising a plurality of solid, elongated, flexible tail members wherein one or more of such tail members is tapered; and

(b) positioning at least a section of the plurality of solid, elongated, flexible tail members in the bladder.

63. (New) A method of manufacturing a medical device, the method comprising:

extruding a first portion of the medical device comprising an upper region including a retention structure and a substantially straight, elongated lower region configured for positioning in a ureter; and

providing a second portion comprising a biocompatible polymer, the second portion extending from the lower region of the first portion and comprising a plurality of continuous and unitary loops.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising attaching the second portion to the first portion.

65. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising fusing the plurality of loops to the first portion.

66. (New) A method for introducing a medical device into a patient, the method comprising:

(a) positioning a section of a medical device within a kidney, the medical device comprising a first portion comprising an upper region including a retention structure and a substantially straight, elongated lower region configured for positioning in a ureter, and a second portion comprising a biocompatible polymer, the second portion extending from the lower region of the first portion and comprising a plurality of continuous and unitary loops; and

(b) positioning at least a section of the plurality of continuous and unitary loops in a bladder.

67. (New) A method for reducing inflammation in a ureter of a patient, the method comprising:

(a) providing a stent comprising

a first segment comprising opposed first and second terminal ends, the first segment adapted to partially reside within a renal pelvis of a kidney and comprising an upper region including the first terminal end, a substantially straight lower region including the second terminal end and configured for positioning in the ureter, and an intermediate region connecting the upper region and the lower region; and

a second segment attached to the first segment at a junction with the second terminal end, the second segment comprising elongated, flexible tail members forming one or more looped filaments, the first and second segments adapted to allow the filaments to follow natural curves of the ureter at a point where the ureter crosses common iliac vessels;

(b) inserting the stent within the ureter; and

(c) positioning the stent within the patient.

68. (New) The method of claim 67 wherein the tail members are solid.

69. (New) The method of claim 67 wherein the upper region of the first segment has an outer diameter and each of said tail members has an outer diameter, the outer diameter of each said tail member being smaller than the outer diameter of the upper region of the first segment.

70. (New) The method of claim 67 wherein the junction is disposed above the point the ureter crosses the common iliac vessels.